

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 11

RESOLUTION NO. 143 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment- Josiah D. Wheeler- Human Rights Commission.

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Josiah D. Wheeler to the Human Rights Commission.

Introduced and read first time on Sep 8, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on Sep 22, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on Oct 5, 2026.

Certified by

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6.326 and 12.202 of the Howard County Code provide for a Human Rights Commission in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Josiah D. Wheeler as a student member of the Human Rights Commission; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of October, 2026 that the following person is appointed as a student member of the Human Rights Commission to serve from the passage of this Resolution to June 30, 2027 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Josiah D. Wheeler
Columbia, Maryland

Josiah Wheeler

EDUCATION

Atholton Highschool

Expected Graduation: 06/2027

GPA: 4.57

EXPERIENCE

Intern at CEI(Community Ecology Institute)

- Conducted community-focused research on designing sustainable garden spaces and implementing waste-reduction and violence reduction strategies to enhance environmental health.
- Contributed to ecological restoration by installing gardens, saving native species, and maintaining pollinator habitats.

Youth Exhibit Guide at National Aquarium

- Served as an Exhibit Guide at the National Aquarium, studying animal behavior and biology while giving engaging educational presentations and leading guests through exhibits to enhance their understanding of marine conservation.

Afterschool Music Tutor

- Taught and refined flute and musical skills of children ages 9-13 through individual lessons

Team Enough Howard County & Baltimore

- Founded and led the Howard County chapter of Team Enough, organizing events and managing student participation, mobilizing students to advocate for gun safety and responsible regulation.

National Geographic Slingshot Challenge

- Conducted and presented research pitch for the protection of monarch butterflies across the East Coast to a student conference hosted by National Geographic.

Science-In-Society Annual Conference

- Participated in the Science in Society Conference—a local STEM event where science and medical professionals present research—engaging with current scientific work and networking with professionals to deepen my understanding of scientific and medical fields.

Amazon Workforce center

- Visited the Amazon Workforce Center in Virginia to discuss applications of artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and workforce engagement strategies in technology driven programs.

Observational Research Studies

- Sat in observation and interview sessions with healthcare professionals and patients in order to collect data and information on procedures specifically dealing with the care of patients with Parkinson's disease using Deep Brain Stimulation Device

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory SLC

- 1 of 5 students from my school chose to present my current research at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory Student Learning Conference this year.

Executive Chair of Howard County Equity Committee for Students

- Collaborating with administrators and students from diverse backgrounds to empower student voices, particularly the ones from historically underrepresented communities. Through this position, I have advocated for equitable practices in our schools, from policies such as 504 plans, to organizing cross cultural student events where students throughout the county can engage in cross cultural networking, bonding, and problem solving. Not divided, but as a team.

PROJECTS

Community Ecology Institute Peace garden

- Collaborated on the creation of the Peace Garden at CEI, designing a community green space to inspire mindfulness and connection with nature, while promoting climate action and environmental stewardship through clean-up initiatives and advocacy

The Monarch Blueprint Initiative

- Independently developed a research project for the National Geographic Slingshot Challenge, producing an infographic, paper, and video presentation advocating for climate action and initiatives to protect the monarch butterfly population in the U.S.

Independent Neuroscience Research Project

- Conducting independent research on integration of AI into Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) to improve efficiency and accuracy of care for Parkinson's patients, including developing a research paper, presenting findings, and observing DBS system programming in a clinical setting.

LEADERSHIP

- Founder of Team Enough Howard County Chapter
- Executive Chair of Howard County Equity Committee
- Vice President of Atholton Green Team
- Vice President of Tri-M Music Honor Society
- Wind Captain and Section leader of Atholton Marching Band

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ AP Computer Science Principles | ☐ Biology GT |
| ☐ AP Computer Science A | ☐ AP Biology |
| ☐ Precalculus GT | ☐ Chemistry GT |

- ☐ Geometry GT
- ☐ Algebra II & Trigonometry
- ☐ Spanish 1,2,3,4, and 5AP

SKILLS

- ☐ Computer Programming
- ☐ IT Skills
- ☐ Executive Communication
- ☐ Student Engagemenet
- ☐ JavaScript
- ☐ Machine Learning
- ☐ Research Project Manager
- ☐ Complex Peoblem Solving
- ☐ Python
- ☐ Organizational Development
- ☐ Data analysis
- ☐ Java

NOTABLE EXTRA-CURRICULARS

- ☐ Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society
- ☐ National Science Honor Society
- ☐ National Music Honor Society
- ☐ Black Student Union
- ☐ Team Enough Baltimore
- ☐ Octave Music Tutoring
- ☐ National Technical Honor Society
- ☐ National English Honor Society
- ☐ MESA
- ☐ Youth Climate Institution
- ☐ Team Enough Howard County